NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

PRESCRIBED GRAZING JOB SHEET

CODE 528

A prescribed grazing system consists of properly managed stands of forage crops that are managed in such a way as to protect the natural resources. Stocking rates and grazing management are linked together to accomplish the objectives.

DEFINITION

The controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals, managed with the intent to achieve a specified objective.

PURPOSES

This practice is to be applied as part of a conservation management system to maintain or improve the following: the health and vigor of desired plant communities, livestock health and productivity, soil condition, water quality or quantity and availability, economic stability and reduction of accelerated erosion.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Prescribed grazing systems are a combination of practices installed and managed to protect the forage resources to reduce erosion, improve water quality and quantity, improve air quality, conserve energy, complement and or improve wildlife habitat, and promote economic viability of producers.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Apply the prescribed grazing plan annually, adjusting as conditions require. Maintain travel surfaces, stream crossings, feeding areas and other conservation practices to insure for protection of natural resources. Repair or replace fences to control livestock. Maintain the watering system to provide proper quality and quantity of water and adjust available forage or livestock numbers to assure proper forage utilization. In times of prolonged drought or excessive moisture livestock shall be moved to an area for confinement and feeding until weather conditions allow for proper grazing.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR GRAZING SYSTEM

Specific information that is needed to successfully plan and manage a grazing operation is included on this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528).

1. Landowner Objectives:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Animal Information

*Animal Types/Species*_____

*Animal Number/Group(s)*_____

*Average Weight/Size*_____

*Lbs Supplement Fed/Day/Head*_____

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*Animal Number/Group(s)*_____

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*Lbs Supplement Fed/Day/Head*_____

Table 1. Suggested Pennsylvania grazing stubble heights Average Forage Yield for species grazed rotationally

Species	Height in Inches		Quality Yield	LBS/
	Turn in	Removal	Good	Poor
Cool-Season Grasses				
Kentucky bluegrass	4 to 6	1 to 2	4,500	2,000
K. bluegrass-white cl.	4 to 6	1	3,500	1,500
Smooth bromegrass	6 to 8	2 to 3	6,500	3,000
Orchardgrass	6 to 8	2 to 3	8,000	3,000
Orchardgrass-ladino	6 to 8	2	6,500	3,000
Reed canarygrass	8 to 10	2 to 3	8,000	3,000
Ryegrass	6	1 to 2	7,500	4,000
Ryegrass-clover	6	1 to 2	6,000	2,750
Small grains	4 to 6	3	3,500	1,500
Tall fescue	6 to 8	2 to 3	7,000	3,500
Tall fescue-ladino cl..	6 to 8	2 to 3	6,000	3,000
Timothy	8	4	6,500	3,000
Alfalfa/Grass	6-8	2 to 3	10,000	4,500
Birdsfoot trefoil	6	3	8,500	3,500
Red Clover/ Grass	4 to 7	2	9,000	6,000
Warm-Season Grasses				
Common	4	1	5,000	2,500
Sorghum	18 to 30	18	10,000	5,000
Switchgrasss	10 to 14	6 to 8	9,000	6,000
Legumes				
Alfalfa	6	1 to 3	8,000	4,000
Ladino or white clover	6 to 8	2		
Brassicas (spring sd)	4	4	10,000	5,000
Brassicas (summer	4	4	9,000	4,000

***Yields can be higher if pastures managed by Intensive Rotational Grazing Method.*

Circle options that apply

3. Grazing Information

*Length of Grazing Season*_____
*Start Date*_____
*Stop Date*_____
*Dominant Grass Species*_____
Shade Preferred Yes or No ***circle one***
*Turn in Height*_____
*Removal Height*_____
*Hay Field # Mechanically Harvested*_____*Acres*_____
Field Residue

*Grazed*_____*Acres*_____
Annual Crops
*Grazed*_____*Acres*_____
Perennial
*Pasture*_____*Acres*_____
Total Grazed
*Acres*_____

Beef Animals	2.5%
Ewes-Lactating	2.5-4.0%
Ewes-Maintenance	1.8-2.0%
Horses	2.0%
Goats-Lactating	5.0%
Goats-Maintenance	1.8-2.0%
Lactating Dairy Cows-Pasture Only	3.0%
Lactating Dairy Cows-TMR/Grain in Barn	2.0%

4. Forage Balance

Forage Species/Mix #1 Acres of pasture_____ **X** lbs DM produced/ac/yr._____ **=**Total lbs Forage Produced_____ Forage Species/Mix #2 Acres of pasture_____ **X** lbs DM produced/ac/yr_____**=** Total lbs Forage Produced_____
Forage Species/Mix #3 Acres of pasture_____ **X** lbs DM produced/ac/yr._____ **=**Total Forage Produced_____

#1_____**+** #2_____**+** #3_____**=**_____
Total Pounds Forage Produced

Table 3. Percentage Dry Matter Intake of Body Weight

_____
#Animals_____ **X** Average Weight_____=Total Live Weight_____ **X** % Body Weight Dry Matter Needs_____ **-** Lbs Grain Fed/Day/Head_____ **=** Total Lbs. Forage Needed/Day_____ **X** _____ Days in Grazing Season = _____ Total Lbs. Forage Needed/Grazing Season

Total Lbs Forage Produced _____-Total Lbs Forage Needed **=** Surplus or Deficit* of Forage_____ ***If** deficit is greater than 70% this is not a pasture. This is an exercise area.

Calculate Stocking Rate

_____Total Live Weight/1000lbs/acres grazed**=**_____AU'es/acre

Contingency Plan

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
__

Sensitive Areas Location & Treatments/Management Options

Field_____
_____
_____

Planned Enhancements

_____
_____
_____